

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

USSS-00 SY-10 OPR-02 INRE-00 A-01 ACDA-19 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 /147 W

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O R 181615Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4801

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T BEIRUT 12264

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PINS,LE, XF, UR

SUBJECT: USSR EVACUATES DEPENDENTS

1. WE HAVE REPORTS WHICH SEEM "PROBABLY TRUE" THAT USSR AND EAST GERMAN EMBASSIES BEIRUT EVACUATED THEIR DEPENDENTS OVER PAST WEEKEND. THIS RAISES SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO SOV ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN LEBANON, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF SIMILAR EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS FROM CACCO AND DAMASCUS PRIOR TO OCT. 6 ARAB ATTACK.

2. WE WISH ADVANCE THREE HYPOTHESES: (A) EVACUATION

RESULT OF ISRAELI PRUDENCE IN PRESENT DANGEROUS AREA SITUATION, (B) SOVS HAD REPORT OF POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON; (C) SOVS KNEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS STEPPED-UP FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS OUT OF LEBANON WHICH COULD CAUSE ISRAELI ATTACK.

3. WE UNABLE JUDGE WHICH OF THESE THREE HYPOTHESES IS MOST LIKELY. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD POPULAR FEARS OF MAJOR IDF ATTACK ON LEBANON EITHER TO NEUTRALIZE FEDAYEEN OR TURN SYRIAN FLANK OR SEIZE LEBANESE TERRITORY.

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SOV AMBASSADOR AZIMOV TOOK LATTER LINE WHEN HE SAW

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER OCT. 17.

SOVS COULD ALSO KNOW OF SOME SPECIFIC IMPENDING ACTIVITY SUCH AS MAJOR FEDAYEEN STRIKE WHICH WOULD LIKELY PROVOKE SEVERE IDF REPRISAL. AZIMOV HAS SEEN ARAFAT TWICE SINCE OCT 6, REPORTEDLY URGING ON BOTH OCCASIONS THAT FEDAYEEN BECOME MORE ACTIVE AGAINST ISRAEL AND PROMISING PROVIDE WEAPONS. EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR OCT 16 HE FEARED ISRAEL WOULD SOON BOMB BEIRUT, ALLEGING IT WOULD BE BECAUSE EAST GERMAN SHIPS OFFLOADING MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR SYRIA HERE.

4. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO BLOC OR OTHER SHIPS OFFLOADING MILITARY SUPPLIES HERE; NOR HAVE THERE BEEN BLOC AIRCRAFT OFFLOADING OR TRANSMITTING BEIRUT WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES. WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN REQUESTS FOR USE OF BOTH PORT AND AIRPORT FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT THAT PERMISSION HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED. THERE IS SOME CONCERN BY KEY LEBANESE OVER WHAT SEEMS TO BE SOV CAMPAIGN INCREASE LEBANON'S DIFFICULTIES AND TRANSFORM ITS ROLE VIS-A-VIS ARAB WAR EFFORT FROM FURNISHING TO SYRIANS SOME MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMERCIAL SUPPLIES, INTO MORE ACTIVE ROLE WHICH GOL TRYING HARD TO AVOID.

COMMENT: REQUEST DEPT ADVISE US WHETHER IT CAN SHED ANY LIGHT ON REASONS FOR SOVIET EVACUATION.

BUFFUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAR, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY POLICIES, EVACUATIONS, DEPENDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1973BEIRUT12264  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS BUFFUM  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17-Jan-2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** USSR EVACUATES DEPENDENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, PINS, LE, XF, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005